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passed through the districts lately infected. A very few cases of dysentery continue to be reported in all the provinces of the Empire.

Respectfully,
 The SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

STUART ELDRIDGE, M. D.,
Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S., Sanitary Inspector.

NETHERLANDS.

Reports from Rotterdam.

ROTTERDAM, NETHERLANDS, *February 20, 1900.*

SIR: I have the honor to report that during the week ended February 19, 1900, 7 vessels were inspected and received bills of health at this port. The steamship *Rotterdam*, of the Holland-America Line, sailed for New York on the 15th instant, carrying freight and passengers. Sixty cabin and 386 steerage passengers were inspected, and 150 pieces of baggage were inspected and so labeled, and 91 pieces of baggage were disinfected and so labeled.

I have been able to learn of no sickness among the shipping.

The quarantine restrictions against Portugal have been removed, and all articles of merchandise, including rags, may now be imported from there into this port.

Respectfully,
 The SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

A. R. THOMAS.
Passed Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.

Report from Manila—Plague continues.

MANILA, P. I., *January 24, 1900.*

SIR: I have the honor to report that there have been 16 cases and 12 deaths from plague in Manila to date, and for the week ended January 20, 1900, 4 cases and 3 deaths occurred. The first cases developed among the Philipinos, but several cases have also occurred among the Chinese. The outlook is not encouraging, and I think there will be a marked increase in the number of cases.

Respectfully,
 The SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

J. C. PERRY,
Passed Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

NOTE.—Two complete steam disinfecting plants have been sent to Manila, and were received at that station January 4, 1900.

PORTO RICO.

Reports from Ponce.

PONCE, PORTO RICO, *February 19, 1900.*

SIR: I have the honor to transmit the weekly quarantine and abstract of bills of health reports for the week ended February 17, 1900. I also inclose a copy of the specifications and plan of the disinfecting room recently completed at this station. The building is situated at one corner of the custom-house wharf, thus enabling a small boat or lighter to bring infected baggage, etc., to the outside door of the room. It can be

landed on a small separate wharf without anyone but the handlers being exposed. I also inclose a copy of the work done by the board of health of Ponce. The general health of the city and vicinity remain about the same.

Respectfully,

W. W. KING,
Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

[Inclosure.]

Work done by board of health for three weeks ended February 17, 1900.

Houses and yards inspected.....	1, 215
Houses and yards denounced.....	95
Milk inspections.....	1, 847
Milk inspections (special).....	2
Food condemned and destroyed (kilos).....	157
Chemical analysis of food or drink.....	1
Vaccinations.....	656
Inspections of schools.....	2
Inspections of cemeteries.....	9
Inspections of slaughterhouses.....	3
Privies cleaned.....	35
Cesspools cleaned.....	22
Houses disinfected.....	5
Animals buried or burned.....	7
Animals buried or burned (glandered horses).....	8
Pigs collected from yards.....	18

Of the 1,847 inspections of milk only 5 were found adulterated. Fines imposed in the three weeks amount to \$200.40.

Employees.—Chief of inspectors, 1; inspectors, 7; vaccinator, 1; inspector of meat at the slaughterhouse, 1; peons, 20; also 6 wagons and 16 mules.

H. E. EAMES,
First Lieutenant, Eleventh Infantry.

PORTUGAL.

End of plague in Oporto—Sanitary restrictions removed.

LISBON, *February 8, 1900.*

SIR: I have the honor to inclose a translation of a royal decree suspending the sanitary restrictions enforced during the plague in Portugal, it having now died out.

Respectfully,

JOHN N. IRWIN.

Hon. SECRETARY OF STATE.

[Inclosure in No. 9.—Royal degree.—Translation.—General board of health.]

ROYAL PALACE, *February 6, 1900.*

In view of the present sanitary state of Oporto and of the opinion of official experts who now consider the restrictions upon passengers and goods from that district unnecessary, and in conformity with the decision of the supreme board of public health and hygiene, I am pleased to decree the following:

The provisions of the decrees of August 17 and August 23, and of September 13 last, are hereby suspended, as well as any others now applied to passengers and goods from Oporto, so long as the sanitary state of the said city shall not render the renewal of any such measures desirable.

The president of the council, the minister of the interior, and the secretaries of other departments shall so understand and enforce it.

Signed by the King.